

Message Text

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ACTION PM-04

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FM AMEMBASSY MONTEVIDEO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1113

C O N F I D E N T I A L MONTEVIDEO 1447

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E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MASS, UY

SUBJ: IMPACT OF NEW SECURITY ASSISTANCE LEGISLATION ON MAAGS
AND SIMILAR ADVISORY MISSIONS OVERSEAS

REF: STATE 097277

1. WHILE MILGP PERSONNEL DO NOT ENGAGE IN POLITICAL ACTIVITIES, THEIR PRESENCE, THEIR CONTACTS AND THE ASSISTANCE THEY PROVIDE TO THE ARMED FORCES IS OF GREAT POLITICAL VALUE. THE URUGUAYAN ARMED FORCES, SINCE 1973, HAVE PLAYED AN INCREASINGLY IMPORTANT ROLE IN GOVERNMENT AT BOTH POLICY FORMULATION AND PROGRAM IMPLEMENTATION LEVELS. GIVEN THE ARMED FORCES' PERVASIVE PRESENCE THROUGHOUT THE GOU, WE BELIEVE (AND HAVE SO REPORTED FREQUENTLY) THAT OUR POLITICAL INTERESTS WOULD CONTINUE TO BE BEST SERVED BY A CONTINUED MILGP PRESENCE.

2. WE BELIEVE THAT THE MINIMAL MILGP STRUCTURE FEASIBLE TO PERMIT CONTINUATION OF THE MILGP IN ANYTHING RESEMBLING ITS PRESENT FORM AND WITH ITS PRESENT, ALREADY REDUCED, FUNCTIONS WOULD CONSIST OF FIVE PERSONS (FOUR OFFICERS AND ONE EM). BASIC TO CONTINUED OPERATIONS WOULD BE THREE LOGISTICS ADVISORS, ONE FOR EACH SERVICE. IN ADDITION, THERE SHOULD BE A COMMANDER WHO WOULD ACT AS SECURITY ASSISTANCE ADVISOR TO THE AMBASSADOR, SERVE AS A RELATIVELY SENIOR CONTACT MAN
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WHO COULD DEAL WITH MINISTRY OF DEFENSE AND MILITARY

OFFICIALS AT THE HIGHEST LEVELS AND, OF COURSE, PROVIDE THE EMBASSY AND DOD WITH THE NEEDED BALANCED TRI-SERVICE OUTLOOK. THE FIFTH PERSON WOULD BE AN ADMINISTRATIVE NCO TO PROVIDE SUPPORT.

3. WE DO NOT BELIEVE A MORE REDUCED GROUP WOULD BE FEASIBLE, PARTICULARLY IN LIGHT OF PROHIBITION AGAINST HAVING THE ATTACHES PERFORM SECURITY ASSISTANCE FUNCTIONS. IF IT WOULD HAVE BEEN POSSIBLE TO ASSIGN THEM TO THE DAO, THE DAO COULD HAVE PROVIDED ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPORT AND HIGH LEVEL ACCESS. HOWEVER, A SEPARATE SECURITY ASSISTANCE OPERATION WOULD REQUIRE AT A MINIMUM THE FIVE SLOTS INDICATED IN PARA 2.
HAAHR

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